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LEE'S  
ANIMAL MAGNETISM  
AND  
REPORT ON  
CLAIRVOYANCE

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THIRD EDITION

3/6

65515/A

MEDICAL SOCIETY  
OF LONDON



ACCESSION NUMBER

PRESS MARK

LEE, E.





ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
REPORT  
UPON THE  
PHENOMENA OF CLAIRVOYANCE  
OR

LUCID SOMNAMBULISM,

(FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION.)

WITH

ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

BY

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AUTHOR OF A "TREATISE ON SOME NERVOUS DISORDERS," &c.

AN APPENDIX TO THE THIRD EDITION OF

"ANIMAL MAGNETISM."

"This is all as true as it is strange."

SHAKSPEARE.

LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

1843.

LONDON

PRINTED BY G. J. PALMER, SAVOY STREET, STRAND.

## PREFACE.

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AWARE that the belief in the higher order of phenomena in Magnetic Somnambulism is general in Germany among those who have paid attention to the subject, and hearing that there were in Paris some Lucid Somnambulists of whom very extraordinary things were related, I was desirous, during my late brief sojourn in that city, of personally ascertaining how far reliance might be placed upon the statements which had been promulgated respecting them, and although a complete stranger, every facility of investigation was courteously afforded me by those engaged in the experiments, who seemed most solicitous to subject them to the test of examination conducted in a candid spirit of inquiry.

*June, 1843.*



# REPORT,

&c.

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TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARISIAN MEDICAL  
SOCIETY.

SIR,

AT the meeting of the Society on the 13th instant, the presentation of a copy of my work on Animal Magnetism and Homœopathy, and the allusion which I made to the operations performed in England and elsewhere upon patients while under the influence of magnetism, without the expression of pain, having given rise to a discussion, which turned upon the more extraordinary phenomena, the existence of which has been so frequently a subject of controversy, I stated, that having been promised an opportunity of personally verifying the reality of these effects of magnetic somnambulism during the period of my sojourn in Paris, I would, if the promise were realised, make the result known to the Society. I therefore now purpose to state, as briefly as possible, the circumstances which have presented themselves to my notice during three magnetic *séances*, each of which lasted upwards of two hours, confining myself to the relation of the trials which I made myself, and

of the most remarkable effects which I witnessed in those made by others; premising that I have no interest in Animal Magnetism beyond that of the advancement of science, and an investigation into the truth of phenomena which have been acknowledged by numerous individuals (among whom might be enumerated many celebrated and distinguished names) but that I was led to pay no inconsiderable attention to the subject of late years from the circumstance of my having published the first account of it in England, eight or nine years ago, as an Appendix to my work on the Medical Institutions and Practice of the Continent.\* In that account I expressed myself incredulous of the facts recorded, (as from their inexplicable nature would be the case with most persons who had not themselves witnessed any of the experiments, or where these experiments had failed,) but in the more extended one which I had the honour to present to the Society, I have not hesitated to avow my conviction, from a more enlarged acquaintance with the subject, and from the opportunities which I have had during the periods of my residence in Germany of ascertaining the opinions which are entertained upon it in that country, that several of the facts have been proved, and that unless others which have been asserted and recorded by many reputable individuals, and respecting which investigation is courted and solicited, can be disproved, the mere denial of them upon the assumed ground of the impossibility of their occurrence, will not invalidate them; my object having been in that work to present an impartial and unbiassed account of Animal Magnetism in its present state. I must, however, acknowledge that the opinions which I have therein expressed are strongly confirmed by

\* It appears that an account of Animal Magnetism was published some years before this in a medical periodical by Mr. Chevenix.

what I have myself witnessed in the experiments which I am about to report.

According to an appointment, I went on the 16th instant, accompanied by Dr. Davison, to No. 21, in the Rue Neuve Coquenard, where about thirty persons of the upper and middle classes, among whom were three or four physicians, were assembled. The first somnambulist presented to the meeting, a young woman named Julie, was the person mentioned in the Paris Globe about a fortnight ago, as having, at an evening assembly, described, among other things, to the astonishment of all present, a dissecting-room, with a subject upon the table, where the physician, *en rapport* with her, had that day been; and on being further questioned as to what peculiarity existed in the foot of the same gentleman, she mentioned that two of his toes had been adherent together from his birth, which was also true; the extract from the above paper having been published in the Morning Herald on the 3rd instant, the day on which I left London. I shall not, however, dwell upon the trials made upon Julie, beyond stating that she told a gentleman with whom she was placed in relation in answer to his inquiries, that on his return home from a former *séance*, he had occupied himself in the evening in magnetising a person at a distance, whom she subsequently said was herself; that although it did not affect her at the time, she now, on being again somnambulised, felt conscious of the circumstance. This statement was acknowledged by the gentleman to be true. On my being placed in relation with her she said, before I spoke, that I came from a long way off; and on my producing a letter to ascertain whether she could read it, she said, before it was opened, that it was not signed, which was the case. She was, however, wrong in saying that it came from a lady, though the writing being very small and fine would have been taken

for that of a lady by most persons. After some efforts, and carrying the letter to her forehead, the writing being reversed, she pronounced the two first words, but could not make out my name, which followed, and complained that the writing was too small. As the eyes, though closed, were not covered with a bandage, I expressed my dissatisfaction to the magnetiser at the result thus far. At a later period Dr. Davison drew from his pocket a number of the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, of which I placed the title in contact with her occiput, and asked her to read the line. She complained of being fatigued by the previous questions of several of the company, but said she would try; and after requesting me to think of the words, said the first letter was a G. She could not, however, distinguish the others, and desired to be awakened. Now, as may be supposed, I had taken good care that she could not possibly have a glimpse of the paper, and if, for argument's sake, it be conceded that she had guessed the right letter, it must at least be allowed that the guess was a good one, when the chances were twenty-four to one against it. This result is, however, insignificant compared with those presented by the next subject, a young man about twenty years of age, of spare habit and intelligent countenance, named Alexis. This young man, on being magnetised, first presented the more ordinary phenomena of cataleptic rigidity, insensibility to pricking, &c. The arm was held out, at the same time both legs were rigidly extended at a right angle from the body, which was propelled forward from the chair upon pressing forcibly upon them. A heavy chair was supported upon the legs for some time, the state of rigidity being continued altogether for about twenty minutes, at the expiration of which period the limbs were restored to their natural pliability by the magnetiser, who then announced that Alexis was in a state of lucid somnam-

bulism, and observed that he presented the peculiarity of hearing what was said by other persons than the one *en rapport* with him. After some of the visitors had questioned him, I placed myself in relation with him, and while holding his hand, gave him a card of Dr. Davison's, asking him to read it, the printed part being reversed and in contact with his hand; he carried it to his nose and forehead, and after some efforts mentioned the three first letters. I then desired that his eyes should be bandaged, and the magnetiser took from a drawer a piece of thick woolly padding, such as is used by tailors for padding of coats, about ten inches long and six broad, and offered it to any of the company to apply. I availed myself of the opportunity, and placed it over his closed eyes in such a manner that the lower edge came down nearly to the aperture of the nostrils; over this a folded handkerchief was tied firmly round the head, and it was then proposed that he should play *ecarté* with any of the company; a gentleman accordingly offered himself, and two packs of cards (one with red, the other with green backs,) were produced, and were used alternately every game. The somnambulist had, meanwhile, still continued his efforts to read Dr. Davison's card, which he at last accomplished, calling it, however, Davignon. While playing, he named the cards which he cut or played, followed the suit with correctness, and repeatedly mentioned the cards which his adversary held in his hand, saying at the beginning that he had won or lost, as the case might be, and was only mistaken two or three times. During one of the games a gentleman present who had not witnessed anything of the kind before, substituted his card for that of Dr. Davison's, which lay upon the table. The somnambulist was soon aware of the exchange, and after touching the gentleman's hand, mentioned the first letter of the new one, though the name was in

contact with the table, and was consequently unknown to the company. After requesting the owner of the card, (Le Cte. de Balincourt,) to think of his name, he said he would tell a letter after each deal. On pronouncing the two last letters of the second word, and winning at the same time a game, he said, *cela fait le compte*, thus punning upon the word; and at last succeeded in mentioning the name except the *de*, which he omitted. Another visiting card was likewise presented to him, which he read more quickly, as his lucidity appeared to increase. A lady then took the gentleman's place as his adversary, and the results were repeated during several games to the satisfaction and astonishment of all present. On one occasion, after he had proposed, the lady dealt him four fresh cards, and while they lay with their faces upon the table, he said, without touching them, "It is of no use playing; I have lost; they are only spades and diamonds." I turned the cards up, and there were in fact two spades and two diamonds. During an intermission in the playing, I drew a card from the pack without looking at it myself, and asked him to name it; he said, "It is a king;" but when I had ascertained that he was mistaken, he said, "No, it is a ten," which was true: I asked him which ten; he said, a black ten, and first mentioned the ten of clubs, whereas it was spades. I then folded down the number of the Gazette des Hôpitaux, and asked him to read a line in moderately large type. He first placed the paper upon his epigastrium, then to his forehead, and holding my hand, said the first letter was an L, requesting me, at the same time, to think well of the words, which I did, and he pronounced them, *Lit de Nicole*, this being the heading of an advertisement. All the time of the card-playing, the magnetiser was at a distance, and only approached when called upon by the somnambulist to support him according as he felt him-

self tired. These trials continued more than half-an-hour, when complaining of the heat, he tore off the bandage.

After he had reposed a little while near an open window, attempts were made to test his capabilities of describing the residences or friends of the persons who placed themselves *en rapport* with him; and although he made several mistakes, and often corrected himself, his descriptions were acknowledged by the parties to be generally true, especially his account of the appearance and disposition of the father of one of the ladies, who was at Abbeville, and also that of the apartment of M. C., a physician, who placed himself *en rapport*; in whose antechamber he perceived, among other things, a skeleton, and stated its place with reference to other objects. He likewise described the sitting-room, as well as a picture suspended in it, in which last attempt, however, he had considerable difficulty, though he at last succeeded, placing himself in the attitude of the persons represented, which was that of an eminent physician, whose name, he said, he saw beneath, though he could not read it. A name was admitted to be beneath the picture, but it was that of the painter. He could not for a long time state what was in the hand, and first said it was something round, a skull: after several efforts, he exclaimed, "Ah! he has something in both hands, and that is what confuses me; something round in the left hand, and something long in the right." It was then stated by the gentleman that the portrait was depicted holding a heart in his left hand, and demonstrating it with an instrument in his right.

Although there was no reason to doubt the good faith of this gentleman any more than that of others of the company, who had put questions to him, and had been satisfied with the exactness of his answers, I had not come merely to see what should

be done by others, and accordingly placed myself again in relation with him, upon which he complained, as he had likewise done while his eyes were bandaged, of being annoyed by the white and blue stones on my breast, meaning the pins in my cravat, which were pearls set in blue enamel. I asked him to describe my apartment, which, after having been told the street, he proceeded to do, saying at first it was upon the third floor. I requested him to tell me the number, upon which he counted slowly up to seven, at which he stopped, and then said, "How stupid I am ! it is not so much, it is No. 1, which was perfectly correct, this apartment being on the ground-floor, to which I had only moved a few days before from No. 7, on the third floor. He then described the apartment with tolerable accuracy, making, however, two or three mistakes, such as saying at first that the bed was on the right on entering, and the windows on the left, though he speedily corrected himself, and reversed their position, which was the right one. He likewise stated the position of the *secretaire*, but said it was open, which was not the case. He mentioned, however, most of the peculiarities without being questioned. For instance, he said there were two rooms ; that the smaller was reached by passing through the larger one ; that there was a very small passage before entering the larger room from the court ; that this room contained the bed, and two windows, though when asked he did not state correctly the position of the fireplace, with respect to the windows. He said the smaller room had but one window, that he saw in it a toilette table, and a large black trunk, which was also true ; (the trunk having been left there by the former occupant of the apartment,) and that there was a sort of passage between the two rooms. While describing, he told me two or three times to think well of the apartment, as he had done with respect to the

line which I had previously asked him to read. He, moreover, said that I had left something on the night-table close to the bed, and on my stating that I was not aware of having done so, repeated with decision that he saw something, he thought it was some paper. As I could not fail to be struck with his accuracy in other points of the description, I was curious on arriving at home to see whether there was in fact anything upon the night-table, to which my first look was directed on entering, and on the marble slab which forms its top, there lay a large piece of the end of the white bed-curtain, which usually hangs by its side, and which I had never before observed to be there.

While describing, he was very positive upon some points, sometimes contradicting the person when told he was wrong; upon some other points he was not equally positive, and corrected himself. For example, having mentioned that there was a well to the right of the house of a gentleman *en rapport* with him, he was contradicted, but persisted in his assertion, upon which the gentleman's wife said the somnambulist was correct, that the well was to the right on coming from the house; on the husband making some reply, the slight altercation was terminated by the somnambulist saying that the well lay north of the house, in which both husband and wife agreed.

The card playing was carried on throughout with a quickness which could not have been exceeded by an expert player, and though he now and then made a slight mistake, such as taking one court card for another, he did not once revoke, but led off the proper cards, followed his adversaries' suit with precision, and generally after the first or second card had been played, he told whether he had gained or lost the other tricks, mentioning the cards in his adversary's hand, and once, when some of the red cards got mixed with the

green ones, he sorted them out without any hesitation.

Two days afterwards I again saw him, at first alone with the magnetiser, who proposed to magnetise him in order to make some further trials on his clairvoyance and intuition. He at first objected, stating that he did not then feel well-disposed, but yielded to the request. After I had applied the cotton and bandage to the eyes, I drew a paper from my pocket, on which were some printed characters in moderately large type. He made out in a little while the larger word, *magnetisme*, but had more difficulty in decyphering the rest, which however he at length accomplished, "*Traitement des Maladies par le Magnetisme*," being the words. I then opened a book, and gave him the heading of a chapter to read, three other people having meanwhile come in. He made out the words, *Des Lotteries Allemandes*, sooner than he had done the previous ones. The magnetiser then proposed that he should describe some distant locality of which I should think. I mentioned my apartments in London, of which the somnambulist proceeded to attempt the description, and was correct in some points, such as that the house was in a street which opened into a very wide street or road, that they were on the ground-floor, the staircase being continued beyond, that the entrance to the sitting-room was to the left of the passage, and at the further end of the room; that there were two windows, and the fire-place was to the right in entering, that there was only one window in the bed-room; in the more minute details, however, he was frequently at fault. I next asked him about Wiesbaden, where I have passed the last five summers. He said on arriving into the town, the passage was along a handsome street, that the hotel at which I descended, was on the left of the street and in a square: on my inquiry as to whether it was large or small, he said

very large; the Hotel des Quatre Saisons being in fact in the situation he described, forming a corner of the Wilhelm Strasse and one side of the square, and is, with one or two exceptions, the largest hotel with which I am acquainted. I told him that I did not remain more than a day or two in the hotel but took apartments, which he said, with truth, were in a lodging-house in the principal street; that there were houses only on one side of the street, that they were not high; that the look-out was upon some large trees and the promenade; which any one who has been there would acknowledge to be a correct description. He further said that the promenade turned off at an angle, and that on each side of the other part he saw a raised terrace; doubtless in allusion to the colonnades, to which the ascent is by four or five steps. He said, however, that there was a monument or statue in the square, which was incorrect, and made a mistake in two or three other particulars. A physician then came in, who spoke of the state of cataleptic rigidity, as being probably voluntary, and put himself in the same position as the somnambulist had been; upon which the magnetiser asked him if he would try to maintain that position as long as Alexis, and support a heavy weight upon his feet; the physician replied that he might be able to do it after several trials. This appeared to annoy the somnambulist, who desired to be awakened. I then took a card, and asked him to say what it was; he at first refused with some petulance, then said it was a club, and on the magnetiser placing himself in relation with him and magnetising, he named the nine of hearts, the card being the nine of diamonds. The magnetiser said this was frequently the case, the presence of persons who were adverse to magnetism, or who tried to discredit or ridicule it, having often the effect of

preventing the phenomena of lucid somnambulism from being well manifested.

At the third *séance*, on the 19th, there was again a tolerably large assemblage of persons, and among them a gentleman who produced a sealed letter, the contents of which he was pretty confident the somnambulist would not be able to make out. I had the day before mentioned to Dr. M'Carthy who had not previously seen any similar experiments, that they were to be repeated; he accordingly came at the beginning, and Dr. Davidson afterwards came in: there were likewise two or three French physicians. After the exhibition of rigidity and insensibility to pricking the rigid limbs, I again applied the padding over the eyes, while Dr. M'Carthy tied the bandage; on some one's inquiring if it could not slip, the somnambulist appeared annoyed, and asked for a second handkerchief, which I placed below the other, so as to leave only the end of the nose free, and below this the padding protruded on each side lower than the nostrils. Dr. M'Carthy expressed himself satisfied that he could not see anything, and the *écarté* playing was again proposed; a gentleman producing a pack of cards which he had brought with him, enclosed in the government envelope. As the pack was entire, the low cards had to be taken out, which the magnetiser asked the somnambulist to do; he said, however, that his lucidity was not yet sufficient, and declined. On cutting for the first deal, he at once said to his adversary, without turning the cards towards himself, "It is your deal," and, as on the former occasion, selected his cards, playing to his adversary's suit, and leading off with precision, naming the cards in his adversary's hand, and consequently telling whether he had lost or won: now and then, however, mistaking a knave or a queen for a king, and once or twice at the beginning,

throwing out a low trump, after having proposed. During one deal, at the expressed wish of the magnetiser, he played to his adversary's suit, and led off correctly while the cards still lay with their faces on the table, without taking them into his hand. I then produced my passport, doubling it down opposite the heading, and asked him to read the first words; he first spelt the word *nom*, and then began afresh, mentioning each letter of the words, *Au nom du roi*, till the last, which he pronounced without spelling. I then took a card, but he said he would have no more cards, and tore off the bandage. Dr. M'Carthy then took a paper from his pocket, and asked him to read a line, he took it for a moment, placed it to his epigastrium, and then threw it aside, declining to attempt, saying, it was the title of a paper; but as his eyes were not bound, even if he had read correctly, the circumstance would not have added to his reputation for lucidity, after what he had exhibited while the eyes were blindfolded; I then placed myself *en rapport* with him, and asked him again the number of my apartment, which he repeated was No. 1. But, I said, there are two numbers one; what is there to distinguish mine from the other, what is there on the key? he replied, there is a letter hanging to the key. What letter? He first pronounced A; passing quickly over it, but hesitated a little at B, then said C, and with decision, "It is a C;" which was true. The gentleman had previously given him his sealed letter, which he undertook to decypher, and after some trials, said it is writing, which was denied; though it appeared on opening the letter that the letters and figures were in writing. He then said there is a picture and some figures; on being asked how many figures, he said five. He was then asked the letters; of which there were several small ones, not forming words, and four capitals. He named three of the capi-

tals, which on opening the paper were found to be correct, as also a small coloured picture, which had been enveloped in the paper containing the letters and figures. He was then awakened, and a female was somnambulised, who exhibited different expressions and attitudes, according to the will of the magnetiser, remaining with rigid limbs, and with the same expression of countenance, till it was altered by the magnetiser's passes. On this, however, there was nothing but what has been often seen; and it is true, as some present asserted, that these attitudes, &c., might possibly have been assumed voluntarily. Such, however, was not my impression in this instance, but the test of this would be the length of time for which the positions could be sustained, which by any one who was deceiving could not be for more than a few minutes. M. Ricard, who had arrived with his somnambulist Virginie, who had repeatedly given proofs of great lucidity in describing localities, and whose descriptions were acknowledged to be exact by Mr. Macpherson Adams in the trials which he and his friends made upon her, and of which he forwarded an account to the Medical Times last October and November. After being magnetised by M. Ricard, Virginie was placed *en rapport* with an ecclesiastic of the seminary of Toulouse, two others being present, and proceeded to describe the town, his church, and residence. She was right in some particulars, such as the street leading to the Place du Capitole, the colour of the houses which are of brick, there being no steeple to the church, &c., but was at fault in several others. She was subsequently placed in relation with an old gentleman, who wished her to describe his chateau. After two or three generalities, which she answered correctly, she attempted to enter more into particulars, and said truly that on ascending two steps, a large room was on the right, which he said was the billiard-room; she also said

there were four windows in it, correctly described the colour of the walls, around which were pictures, but could not make out some piece of furniture, which was between the rooms, though she appeared to try hard. She likewise said she could not perceive any billiard-table; though as the gentleman had mentioned it was the billiard-room, if there were any deception, one would suppose the billiard-table would have been one of the first things mentioned. She was, however, unsuccessful in some of her other attempts to describe the same place, so that her exhibition on this occasion may be considered a failure, as compared with some of her previous ones.

Such is the account, to the best of my recollection, of a part of the occurrences which took place before numerous assemblages of persons, analogous ones being daily shown in private parties; the somnambulist with his eyes bandaged, playing with any one who chooses to offer himself; reading printed and written lines, and describing localities; though Alexis, as well as the other somnambulists, is often at fault, of which I was told an instance at the party of a lady, where he had failed to distinguish the colour of flowers, but in my opinion the failures do not disprove the instances of success.

Had I not promised so to do, I should not have stated these occurrences to the Society, feeling that in the present state of our knowledge they are such as not to admit of discussion, and I think no one who has witnessed these experiments so frequently repeated, would be disposed to ascribe them to trickery or accidental guessing, as might be the case were there only two or three isolated instances; for with reference merely to the trials which I myself made, and to the card playing, will it be asserted that any one in their normal state, and with the free use of their eyes, could have performed the feats, a few of which I have enu-

merated? that the female somnambulist should have guessed the letter G, of the Gazette des Hôpitaux? that Alexis should by chance, or from seeing them, have read the words which I desired him, that he should have mentioned several peculiarities of my apartment, as well as that of others, without any leading questions being put to him; for supposing, for instance, I had asked, is there a trunk in my room, in which room is it, and what is its colour? the chances would be at least equal to his guessing wrong as right; whereas as regards myself, his stating the circumstances correctly was the rule, and the mistakes, which he frequently corrected, the rare exception. It must also be admitted after he positively affirmed that there was something on the night-table, without any allusion to this piece of furniture on my part; and my perceiving on arriving at home, the unusual circumstance of its being covered with a piece of the curtain, was at least a curious coincidence. I do not offer any explanation of these extraordinary phenomena, which have likewise been admitted and recorded by numerous individuals, and with reference to which the commission, appointed by the Académie de Médecine in 1826, to inquire into Magnetism, thus expressed itself, before that body, after five years of patient investigation, in the conclusion of its report.

“Certainly we dare not flatter ourselves that we shall make you share entirely our conviction of the reality of the phenomena which we have observed, and which you have neither seen, nor followed, nor studied with, or in opposition to us. We do not, therefore, exact from you a blind belief in all which we have reported. We conceive that a great part of the facts are so extraordinary, that you cannot grant it to us; perhaps we ourselves should have refused you our belief if, changing places, you had come to announce them before this tribunal, to us,

who like you at present had seen nothing, observed nothing, studied nothing, followed nothing of them.

“We only require that you judge us as we should have judged you, that is to say, that you remain perfectly convinced that neither the love of the marvellous, nor the desire of celebrity, nor any interest whatever, has influenced us in our labours. We were animated by motives more elevated, more worthy of you—by the love of science, and by the wish to justify the hope which the Academie had conceived of our zeal and devotedness.”

Before concluding, I would remark, that in my opinion, the consideration of the physical influence, (so to speak,) transmitted from the magnetiser to the magnetised, inducing in the latter a peculiar kind of sleep, a greater or less degree of insensibility to external stimulants on the senses, to pricking, cutting, ammonia held to the nostrils, &c.; as also the state of cataleptic rigidity, which influence is likely to become more practically useful than heretofore as a therapeutic means, should be separated from that of the psychological phenomena, as *clairvoyance*, intuition, the divining the thoughts of persons *en rapport* with somnambulists, &c.; which are powers superadded in a comparatively small number of individuals while under the magnetic influence, and in whom the lucidity is not at all times in the same degree of perfection, whereas, the former category of effects are producible upon a large proportion of those who are magnetised, and also upon several animals, accounts of the experiments upon which have been published by some persons.

It is very likely, however, that those members of the society who may wish to see analogous phenomena to those which I have recorded, will probably have an opportunity of doing so, as on a proposition of Dr. Davison, I asked M. Marcillet, the magnetiser, if he would appear with his somnam-

bulist before the society, which he kindly consented to do. Should such be the case, I feel convinced that the members of the society will take care to avoid giving any annoyance to the somnambulist by which his lucidity might be impaired ; and that they will be disposed to judge without prejudice or undue bias from preconceived notions, of the facts which they may witness : though I think it would be more satisfactory as regards the results, if a committee composed of a small number of members of the society were previously to see and report upon the phenomenon of clairvoyance, or the perception of cards, printed or written characters, separately from the other phenomena, by which its existence might be verified.

EDWIN LEE.

*April 20, 1843.*

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*Translated copy of a letter addressed to M. Marcillet.*

SIR,

I cannot remain satisfied with verbally thanking you for having enabled me to witness some magnetic phenomena ; more durable expressions of my astonishment on perceiving effects which are inexplicable by human intelligence than are words, ought to serve to counterpoise the denials of an obstinate incredulity, and to reply triumphantly to those persons who will see nothing else than charlatanism in the exercise of a new sense, which we vainly endeavour to comprehend. Let such persons then perceive, in the declaration which I feel pleasure in making to you, Sir, the proof of a conviction which could only be founded upon the wonderful experiments, to which you had the kindness to admit me.

Although I had formerly attended magnetic *séances*, in which some surprising results had been

obtained, I had, I confess, doubts respecting the reality of the faculty possessed by certain somnambulists, of transporting themselves mentally, to places which they had never seen, and which were known only to those with whom they were placed in relation. I was, therefore, strongly desirous of ascertaining how far they might be relied upon in this respect, and the trial has been so satisfactory, so complete, that I can scarcely believe that which I have seen and heard. The young Alexis has, at my request, described to me my country residence, (situated an hundred leagues from Paris,) and the details with a marvellous exactness; the appearance of the country, the remarkable objects, the shape of the buildings, the nature and the position of the furniture, nothing escaped this second sight. It seemed as if an immense picture was unfolded to the eyes of the somnambulist, and that he had only to indicate its different parts. He sometimes hesitated in his answers, but always in order to arrive more surely at the truth, always leaving me in the most extreme surprise, I may say in stupefaction.

Suffer, Sir, that this testimony of the sensations which you have caused me to experience, be also that of the gratitude due to your kindness, and accept the expression of the distinguished consideration with which I am,

Your very humble servant,

GEORGE ONSLOW,  
Member of the Institute.

*Paris, April 21, 1843.*

### ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

Since the above report was made, the phenomena which it records, have been daily exhibited before large assemblies by whom their correctness and truth are acknowledged; and in England, within the last three months, animal magnetism has made rapid progress both as regards the public and the medical profession; to which have greatly contributed the relation of cases now more frequently occurring, of operations performed without pain upon persons subjected to the influence of this agent; the popular lectures which have been given in London and in the provincial towns, in which are usually shown the ordinary effects, as also the phenomena of phreno-magnetism;\* the large circulation of the monthly and quarterly journals, (nearly the whole impression, of the first number of the *Zoist* having been sold off before the appearance of the second,) though as yet no very striking instances of lucid somnambulism, similar to those in Paris, have been made public on this side the channel, and respecting which it is very natu-

\* In a pamphlet just published by Mr. Colquhoun, ("The Fallacy of Phreno-Magnetism Detected and Exposed,") these manifestations are ascribed to the community of feeling between the Magnetiser and Somnambulist leading the latter to express the sentiments of the former, in the same manner as the community of taste, when if the magnetiser place any savoury substance in his mouth, the taste will be immediately felt by the sleeping patient.

ral that many of those who have not had the opportunity of personally verifying their existence, should express their doubts or disbelief notwithstanding the numerous attestations of their truth ; several of which were made by persons of celebrity who were themselves previously sceptical. Thus many years ago, Mr. Chevenix said, "In 1803 and 1804, while travelling in Germany, I heard many very enlightened men of the universities talk of animal magnetism with nearly the same certainty as mineral magnetism, but I set down their credulity to the account of German mysticism. I remained an unbeliever." At length after nineteen years, Mr. C. condescended to witness mesmerism in the person of a young lady at Paris. "I went to laugh," says he, "and came away convinced."—Zoist. The same gentleman further observed : "Wonderful, indeed, it may appear, but what makes anything wonderful to us, if not our ignorance ? In my recollection they have wondered at hydrogen and oxygen, at a dead frog, jumping between two plates of metal, at gas-lights and steam-boats, and now they wonder at any one who wonders at these familiar things. Everything in creation is wonderful or nothing is so, but the last known truth always appears the most miraculous to unreflecting minds. Since the world began men have been wondering at everything, till habit tamed their minds upon it."

"In receiving facts upon testimony," says Dr. Abercombie, in his work on the Intellectual Powers, "we are much influenced by their accordance with facts with which we are already acquainted. This is what in common language, we call their probability, and statements which are probable, that is in accordance with facts which we already know are received upon a lower degree of evidence than those which are not in such accordance. Now this is a sound and salutary caution, but we should beware of allowing it to influence us beyond its proper sphere. It should lead us to examine carefully the

evidence upon which we receive facts, but we should beware of allowing it to engender scepticism. For while an unbounded credulity is the part of a weak mind which never thinks or reasons at all, an unlimited scepticism is the part of a contracted mind which reasons upon imperfect data, or makes its own knowledge and extent of observation the standard and test of probability. An ignorant peasant may reject the testimony of a philosopher in regard to the size of the moon, because he thinks he has the evidence of his senses that it is only a foot in diameter; and a person holding a respectable rank in society is said to have received with contempt the doctrine of the revolution of the earth on its axis because he was perfectly satisfied that his house was never known to turn with its front to the north. When the King of Siam was told by a Dutch traveller, that in Holland at certain seasons of the year water becomes so solid that an elephant might walk over it, he replied, "I have believed many extraordinary things which you have told me, because I took you for a man of truth and veracity, but now I am convinced that you lie." Had the King of Siam once seen water in a frozen state, he would not only have been put right in regard to this fact, but his confidence would have been shaken in his own experience as the test of probability in other things, and he would have been more disposed for the farther reception of truth upon the evidence of testimony.

"The reception of facts upon the evidence of testimony must therefore be considered as a fundamental principle of our nature, to be acted upon whenever we are satisfied that the testimony possesses certain characters of credibility. These are chiefly referable to three heads;—that the individual has had sufficient opportunity of ascertaining the facts; that we have confidence in his power of judging of their accuracy; and that we have no suspicion of his being influenced by passion or preju-

dice in his testimony—or, in other words, that we believe him to be an honest witness. Our confidence is further strengthened by several witnesses concurring in the same testimony, each of whom has had the same opportunities of ascertaining the facts, and presents the same characters of truth and honesty. On such testimony we are in the constant habit of receiving statements which are much beyond the sphere of our personal observation, and widely at variance with our experience. These are the statements which for the sake of a name we may call marvellous. In regard to such the foundation of incredulity, as we have seen, is generally ignorance, and it is interesting to trace the principles by which a man of cultivated mind is influenced in receiving upon testimony statements which are rejected by the vulgar as totally incredible.

“He is influenced by the recollections that many things at one time appeared to him marvellous which he now knows to be true; and he thence concludes that there may still be in nature many phenomena, and many principles with which he is entirely unacquainted. In other words, he has learned from experience not to make his own knowledge the test of probability.”

On the occasion of the discussion at the Académie Royale de Médecine, upon some alleged deception in Magnetic Clairvoyance, brought forward by M. Gerdy, notwithstanding that body had decided they would not again discuss the subject, M. J. Cloquet remarked: “There exist incontestible facts of Magnetism, doubtless we cannot explain them, but these facts are not the only ones inexplicable in science. We cannot explain natural somnambulism. It is not then philosophical nor becoming in a learned body, like the Académie, to oppose itself in this manner to facts, and to place a veto upon further examination. I vote against the decision.” M. M. Adelon and Londe concurred in the remarks of M. Cloquet. M. Bouvier certified

that for twenty years he had frequently had occasion to witness magnetic somnambulism.

M. Londe said: "I was present at the experiments to which M. Gerdy has alluded, and I must say that out of five hundred persons who witnessed them, M. Gerdy, one or two confrères, and myself, were the only ones who retained any doubts respecting the reality of the phenomena of Magnetic Clairvoyance in that *séance*. Facts which have been declared to be true by so large a number of witnesses, do they not deserve to be again verified?"

M. Ferrus said: "Far from compromising itself, the Académie renders a service to science in occupying itself with the subject." For his part he believed both orders of phenomena, not only because he had seen incontestible facts of magnetism, but because he had been able to produce them himself. That very day he had seen some magnetic phenomena and a very remarkable case of natural somnambulism.

With reference to the production of insensibility during operations by magnetising, M. Cloquet, who is well known as one of the first surgeons in Paris, re-asserted in a full assembly of the Académie, with reference to the person on whom he had extirpated a diseased breast without the feeling of pain, that the insensibility was in consequence of the magnetisation;\* and the report of the Commission of the Académie made in 1831, likewise says on this part of the subject: "In this singular state the senses have been closed to exterior impressions; a bottle containing several ounces of ammonia, could be held under the nose for five, ten, fifteen minutes, or longer, without producing the least effect; the skin has likewise been in such a state of complete insensibility, so as to be insensible to the burning of *moxa*, to the powerful excitation of the application of hot water

\* A report was spread that the patient died in an hospital, and confessed that she had deceived. This M. Colquet avers is altogether untrue; the patient, who was the wife of a wealthy person, never having been in an hospital, or made any such confession.

with mustard powder, which burning and irritation were immediately felt and extremely painful, as soon as the skin was restored to its normal sensibility.” \*

\* A few days ago I received a letter from Dr. Davison, in Paris, of which the following is an extract.

“ I have been present at three *séances magnétiques*, but none of the experiments were successful. Alexis failed in almost every instance, and a new subject, the servant of Marcillet, of whom he related marvels, was totally at fault.

“ The president of our Society, Dr. Oliffe, engaged Marcillet and Alexis to perform at his house about a fortnight since, and he invited many of the members that they might have an opportunity of forming their own conclusions on the subject. The rooms were warm and crowded, and the people almost hemmed in the magnetiser and his subject. Scarcely had the experiments commenced when one person, D. L., made some absurd objections to them, and expressed his utter disbelief in mesmerism. In fact, the conduct of the majority was such that it is not surprising Alexis was altogether wanting in clairvoyance; in place of one name he gave another; and the other experiments were not more successful.”

Thus it would appear, either that Alexis is losing his powers of lucidity, which generally happens to somnambulists after a longer or shorter period,\* or that they were impaired by the circumstance of his knowing that he was to exhibit before an assembly, the majority of whom were adverse to, and discredited magnetism, of which I have related an instance in the report, and which magnetisers state to be most frequently the case. At the time when I proposed that he should appear before the Society M. Marcillet at once consented, but Alexis objected, and stated his apprehension of not succeeding before a large assembly of medical men, the greater number of whom he conceived to be prejudiced against magnetism. This being known to be the case, it was obviously unfair and illiberal, both as regards the somnambulist, and those who were disposed to witness the experiments in good faith, in individuals to conduct themselves in such a manner as almost certainly to cause them to fail. The failures, however, in nowise invalidate the result of the successful trials, for if the experiments were invariably to succeed, there would no longer be room for scepticism, and no doubt could exist. As Mr. Chenevix long ago remarked in his papers in the Medical and Physical Journal, “ Things which are so directly opposite to current opinions, should be witnessed more than once before they are judged. Could these phenomena be infallibly produced at will, and before an unlimited number of witnesses, the question would be decided at once; sentence might long since have been pronounced upon a public theatre. At all events nothing can more strongly evince the good faith and confidence of the magnetiser than his readiness to allow the somnambulist to try his powers under such unfavourable circumstances.”

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\* Madlle. Pigeaire, who exhibited powers of clairvoyance, much to the astonishment and satisfaction of many highly distinguished persons in Montpellier and Paris, has now entirely lost her lucidity.

Thus not only the common effects of Animal Magnetism, but also the more extraordinary phenomena of lucid somnambulism, may be regarded as proved; though this latter state is superadded and met with in comparatively few instances, and although these phenomena do not admit of satisfactory explanation in the present state of science, yet they must be considered as adding another link to the chain of knowledge, and as testifying that perception may be occasionally acquired by other means than the organs of sense which serve for this purpose under ordinary circumstances. As corroborative of this opinion, I will extract a quotation from a standard German work on Practical Religion, by an author no less esteemed in this respect, than from his historical and other works.\* This author observes: "Nevertheless, it is not to be denied that we are but learners in our investigations into the secrets of nature, and that what appears to us to be incomprehensible, is not, on that account, to be denied altogether. We now know, for instance, that the human soul, which employs for its instrument, as regards earthly things, the nervous system more particularly, can also feel and perceive beyond the sphere of the nerves. We know that in certain conditions of nervous disorder, man may possess increased powers, may perceive distant things, which are separated from him by an interval of many miles. We know that in some states of the nervous system, persons can see with firmly closed eyes, can hear with closed ears. We have examples of this in the so-called somnambulists, who during the complete sleep of their bodies, perform things which in their waking state they were unable to accomplish. Thus, herein shows itself very clearly an activity of the human soul altogether independent of its outward senses. But in point

\* Zschocke. *Stunden der Andacht*, (Hours of Devotion,) twenty-first edition.

of fact, it is not the eyes which see, nor the ears which hear, it is the soul which sees, hears, and perceives by means of the nerves, which are distributed over the whole surface of the body, and the powers of which are at most redoubled in the apparatus of the senses, smell, feeling," &c.

Again, he observes: "Undoubted observation and experience likewise confirm the possibility of an intimate union, of an influence of souls upon souls without the interposition of bodily means of assistance; (*Hilfsmittel*,) and to this extent, there is also something credible in what are termed presentiments, foreknowledge, and so forth."\*

"All this undoubted experience, however, has proved to us nothing else than that the human soul in certain states, possesses an increased power of perception, but not that it has any power to act upon bodies, external to its own body. The soul is a spiritual essence, and can only act upon other bodies through the intermedium of its own body. Consequently, nothing should be thought of these presentiments, and still less of the foreknowledge of particular destinies when the signs of them appear to us in an earthly or corporeal form. Souls act communicatively upon souls. Bodies also communicatively upon bodies."

With respect to the power of prediction, the same author states in another part of his work, "Yet the understanding and judgment are not the only means by which God occasionally permits the future to become evident to man. Here, likewise, exists in

\* The following circumstance was recently related to me as a positive fact. A young lady, perfectly awake, became suddenly very much affected, and asserted that her father, who had left home in the morning, had just met with an accident, having fallen from the carriage. A physician, who called in, endeavoured to reason her out of her apprehension, and to impress upon her mind the unlikelihood of such an occurrence. A few hours afterwards, however, her father was brought home with a fractured leg, from the carriage having broken down, and his falling out.

the human soul another faculty for which, as yet, no name has been applied, and the extent of which we ourselves do not know, notwithstanding its existence cannot well be questioned. Under certain circumstances, which, however, rarely occur, and usually appear to accompany a disordered state or an approaching dissolution of the body, the soul enjoys a greater freedom than in ordinary cases. It has the faculty, directly, and without inference, both of perceiving occurrences at a distance, and of being sensible of future events. The properties of man's nature are too little known to us, for us to pay no regard to, or to consider as erroneous, that which we are not able to explain from ordinary and known causes. The ancients, who knew as much as we do of the properties of the human soul, observed this inexplicable power of perception and foresight, especially in cases of nervous weakness, and in the dying. Experience, and numberless observations, in more recent times, up to our own day, corroborate this opinion, viz. that there are circumstances under which the soul, less bound down than usual by the body, passes out beyond *the circle of operation* of the earthly senses."\*

In my work on Animal Magnetism, I have recorded, among others, the instance of the prediction of the death of the King of Wurtemberg by two different somnambulists; the one having foretold the event four years beforehand, the other in the spring of the same year, mentioned the exact day, in the month of October, as also the disease, (apoplexy;) the exact coincidence of the event with the predictions is not doubted at Stuttgart, and a fortnight ago Dr. Klein, who is now\* in England accompanying the Crown Prince of Wurtemberg, having been introduced to me, I took the opportunity of asking him about the circumstance, which

\* On Prophecies.

he acknowledged was, as has been stated, saying, moreover, that his father was physician to the king, who, on the morning of the day on which the attack occurred, was in very good health and spirits. The predictions of individuals from dreams, (between which, and the phenomena of somnambulism, there is great analogy,) as regards themselves or others, have likewise, in many instances, been fulfilled in a remarkable manner. Mr. Borrow, on describing his voyage out, in his work, the "Bible in Spain," relates one of these instances. "I was on the fore-castle discoursing with two of the sailors: one of them who had but just left his hammock, said, 'I have had a strange dream, which I do not much like; for I dreamt that I fell into the sea from the cross-trees.' He was heard to say this by several of the crew beside myself, and shortly after, the captain, perceiving that the squall was increasing, ordered the topsails to be taken in, whereupon this man, with several others, instantly ran aloft; the yard was in the act of being hauled down, when a sudden gust of wind whirled it round with violence, and a man was struck down from the cross-trees into the sea, which was working like yeast below. In a few moments he emerged: I saw his head on the crest of a billow, and instantly recognised in the unfortunate man, the sailor who a few moments before had related his dream. The poor fellow who perished in this singular manner was a fine young man of twenty-seven; the best sailor on board, and beloved by all who were acquainted with him. This event occurred on the 11th November, 1835; the vessel was the London Merchant Steam Ship. Truly wonderful are the ways of Providence!"

A lady, a friend of mine, told me that one of her friends dreamt three times the same night that her child was taken by an angel; on awaking after the third time, she found the child dead by her side, notwithstanding it was previously in good health.

Similar coincidences have generally been considered as accidental; but the circumstances will doubtless admit of the same explanation as that which has been offered upon the phenomena of lucid somnambulism; which, as they are likely to be more particularly noted in future, will not occasion so much surprise as hitherto, from their having been only occasionally observed. As the author of a standard work remarks with reference to the phenomena which takes place during sleep: "Among the astonishing appearances exhibited by the mind in sleep, a very large proportion are precisely analogous to those of which we are every moment conscious while awake. If the exciting causes, for example, of our dreams seem mysterious and inscrutable, is not the fact the same with the origin of every idea or thought which spontaneously solicits our notice? The only difference is, that in the latter instance, in consequence of long and constant familiarity, they are surveyed by all with little wonder, and by most with hardly any attention. In the former instance, they rouse the curiosity of the most illiterate, from their comparative infrequency, and from the contrast which in some respects they present to the results of our habitual experience. It is thus that a peasant who has been accustomed from his infancy to see without any emotion the fall of heavy bodies to the ground, never fails to express the liveliest emotion when he first witnesses the powers of the loadstone."

"In such cases the researches of genuine science have a tendency to produce two moral effects equally beneficial. The one is to illustrate the unity of design in nature, by reconciling, what seems from its rarity or singularity to be mysterious or incomprehensible, with the general laws which are familiarised to us by daily experience; the other to counteract the effects of familiarity in blunting our natural curiosity with respect to those laws by lead-

ing the thoughts to some of their more curious and apparently anomalous applications.”\*

The above passage might be dwelt upon with much advantage by those persons who are disposed to ascribe effects which appear to them miraculous, because they lie beyond the sphere of their circumscribed intelligence, to the direct intervention of a supernatural agency, and it is with difficulty that a smile is suppressed when we hear it gravely alleged, that if the phenomena of magnetic somnambulism were admitted to be true, they are only to be ascribed to satanic influence, though it would not be easy for such persons to reconcile the co-existence of an influence from such a source with the benefits which are likely to result from the extended application of Animal Magnetism :† for even allowing that this power is liable to be occasionally abused, where, it may be asked, are we to find any un-mixed good? and the same objection might be equally applied to any of the powerful agents of nature or art. While the good from the employment of magnetism is likely to be positive and general, there is no reason to apprehend more harm from its occasional abuse, than from that of opium, arsenic, galvanism, or anything else which admits of being employed either beneficially or prejudicially.

I have already alluded to the corroboration which the doctrines of revealed religion receive from the somnambulic phenomena, inasmuch as they go to prove the separate existence of mind or soul from matter, and its consequent independence of the organs by which its manifestations are made evident under ordinary circumstances; and I have mentioned the conversion of Georget from his opinions, advocating materialism, in consequence of his be-

\* Notes to Stewart's Philosophy of the Human Mind.

† A well-written letter, taking an opposite view of the question, “Mesmerism the Gift of God,” has just been published by a beneficed clergyman. (Painter, 340, Strand.)

coming acquainted with these phenomena. The following extract is taken from the last will of this celebrated physician and physiologist. "In 1821 I openly professed the doctrines of materialism in my work on the nervous system. This work had scarcely appeared, when renewed meditations on a very extraordinary phenomenon, somnambulism, no longer permitted me to entertain doubts of the existence within us, and external to us, of an intelligent principle, altogether different from material existences; in a word, of the soul and God. With respect to this I entertain a profound conviction, founded upon facts which I believe to be incontestible. This declaration will not see the light till a period when its sincerity will not be doubted, or my intentions suspected. As I cannot publish it myself, I request those persons who may read it, on opening this will, that is to say, after my death, to give it all possible publicity."

"The mind," observes Dr. Abercrombie, "can be compared to nothing in nature; it has been endowed by its Creator with a power of perceiving external things, but the manner in which it does so is entirely beyond our comprehension." In another part of his work, Dr. A. relates the case of a boy, who, at the age of four, received a fracture of the skull, for which he underwent the operation of the trepan. He was at the time in a state of perfect stupor, and after his recovery retained no recollection either of the accident or the operation. At the age of fifteen, during the delirium of a fever, he gave his mother an account of the operation, and the persons who were present at it, with a correct description of their dress, and other minute particulars. He had never been observed to allude to it before, and no means were known by which he could have acquired the circumstances which he mentioned." After alluding to several instances in which the brain has been extensively diseased without the phenomena of mind being impaired in

any sensible degree, (among others that of a man who died with a pound of water in his brain, after having been long in a state of idiocy, but who, a very short time before his death, became perfectly rational,) this distinguished physician further remarks, in illustration of the independent existence of the thinking principle, "The facts which have been thus briefly referred to present a series of phenomena of the most remarkable kind, but on which we cannot speculate in the smallest degree without advancing beyond the sphere of our limited faculties. One thing, however, is certain,—that they give no countenance to the doctrine of materialism, which some have presumptuously deduced from a very partial view, upon the influence of cerebral disease upon the manifestations of mind. They show us, indeed, in a very striking manner, the mind holding intercourse with the external world through the medium of the brain and nervous system; and by certain diseases of these organs, they show this intercourse impaired or suspended, but they show nothing more. In particular, they warrant nothing in any degree analogous to those partial deductions which form the basis of materialism; on the contrary, they show us the brain injured and diseased to an extraordinary extent, without the mental functions being affected in any sensible degree. They show us, farther, the manifestations of mind obscured for a time, and yet reviving in all their original vigour almost at the very moment of dissolution. Finally, they exhibit to us the mind, cut off from all intercourse with the external world, recalling its old impressions, even of things long forgotten, and exercising its powers on those which had long ceased to exist, in a manner totally irreconcilable with any idea we can form of a material function." \*

\* On the Intellectual Powers.

The following cases which I subjoin from the same work, together with those of an analogous nature which I have already recorded, tend, I think, further to prove that under peculiar circumstances, the mind may acquire perceptions, independently of the material organs by means of which its manifestations are usually evidenced, and also to corroborate the numerous instances of mental *rapport*, intuition, and the prediction of events by persons while in magnetic somnambulism.

“ A gentleman in Edinburgh was affected with aneurism of the popliteal artery, for which he was under the care of two eminent surgeons, and the day was fixed for the operation. About two days before the time appointed for it, the wife of the patient dreamt that a change had taken place in the disease, in consequence of which the operation would not be required. On examining the tumour in the morning the gentleman was astonished to find that the pulsation had entirely ceased; and, in short, this turned out to be a spontaneous cure. To persons not professional it may be right to mention that the cure of popliteal aneurism without an operation is a very uncommon occurrence, not happening in one out of numerous instances, and never to be looked upon as probable in any individual case.”

“ I am enabled,” says Dr. Abercrombie, to give the following as entirely authentic in all its particulars.—“ A most respectable clergyman in a country parish in Scotland made a collection at his church for an object of public benevolence in which he felt deeply interested. The amount of the collection, which was received in ladles carried through the church, fell greatly short of his speculation, and during the evening of that day he frequently alluded to this with expressions of much disappointment. In the following night he dreamt that three one pound notes had been left in one of the ladles,

having been so compressed by the money which had been thrown in above them that they had stuck in the corner when the ladle was emptied. He was so impressed by the vision, that at an early hour in the morning he went to the church,—found the ladle which he had seen in his dream, and drew from one of the corners of it three one pound notes.”

“ Many years ago there was mentioned in several of the papers a dream which gave notice of the murder of Mr. Percival. Through the kindness of an eminent medical friend in England, I have received the authentic particulars of this remarkable case from the gentleman to whom the dream occurred. He resides in Cornwall, and eight days before the murder was committed dreamt that he was in the lobby of the House of Commons, and saw a small man enter dressed in a blue coat and white waistcoat. Immediately after he saw a man dressed in a brown coat with yellow basket metal buttons draw a pistol from under his coat and discharge it at the former, who instantly fell. The blood issued from a wound a little below the left breast. He saw the murderer seized by some gentlemen who were present, and observed his countenance; and on asking who the gentleman was who had been shot, he was told it was the Chancellor, (Mr. Percival was at the time Chancellor of the Exchequer.) He then awoke, and mentioned the dream to his wife, who made light of it; but in the course of the night the dream occurred three times without the least variation in any of the circumstances. He was now so much impressed by it, that he felt much inclined to give notice to Mr. Percival, but was dissuaded by some friends whom he consulted, who assured him he would only get himself treated as a fanatic. On the evening of the eighth day after he received the account of the murder. Being in London a short time after, he found in the print-shops a representation of the scene, and recognised

in it the countenances and dress of the parties, the blood on Mr. Percival's waistcoat, and the peculiar yellow basket-buttons on Bellingham's coat, precisely as he had seen them in his dream."\*

"The gentleman to whom I am indebted for the following case, was born in Madras, and was brought from thence at the age of three years to be educated in England, where he grew up without the least recollection of anything relating to Madras or to his parents, who remained in India. At the age of fourteen, he dreamt that he saw his mother sitting in the dress of a widow, and apparently under deep distress; and he gave a distinct account of the apartment in which he saw her, with the position of various prominent articles of furniture, which he described minutely. It afterwards turned out that his father died about the time of the dream; and that he had correctly described a drawing-room in the house at Madras in which his mother was in the habit of sitting."

"An instance of a very singular kind is mentioned by Mr. Joseph Taylor, and is given by him as an undoubted fact. A young man who was at an academy, a hundred miles from home, dreamt that he went to his father's house in the night, tried the front door but found it locked; got in by the back door, and finding nobody out of bed, went directly to the bed-room of his parents. He then said to his mother, whom he found awake, 'Mother, I am going a long journey, and am come to bid you good-bye.' On this she answered, under much agitation, 'Oh, dear son, thou art dead!' He instantly awoke and thought no more of his dream, until a few days after, he received a letter from his father, inquiring very anxiously after his health, in consequence of a frightful dream his mother had on the same night

\* It was assured by a person, on whose statement I place every reliance, that the death of the Duke of Orleans was predicted by a somnambulist a fortnight before the event.

in which the dream now mentioned occurred to him. She dreamt that she heard some one attempt to open the front-door, then go to the back-door, and at last come into her bed-room; she then saw it was her son, who came to the side of her bed and said, 'Mother, I am going a long journey, and am come to bid you good bye.' On which she exclaimed, 'Oh, dear son, thou art dead!' But nothing unusual happened to any of the parties."

I have mentioned in "Animal Magnetism," the case related by Dr. Dyce; the following which is likewise given in Dr. Abercrombie's work, under the head of "somnambulism," is still more interesting, and would suffer by any abbreviation. Dr. Abercrombie states that he received it from a lady of high intelligence, who was herself a witness of the facts.

"A girl aged seven years, an orphan of the lowest rank, residing in the house of a farmer by whom she was employed in tending cattle, was accustomed to sleep in an apartment separated by a very thin partition from one which was frequently occupied by an itinerant fiddler. This person was a musician of very considerable skill, and often spent a part of the night in performing pieces of a refined description; but his performance was not taken notice of by the child except as a disagreeable noise. After a residence of six months in this family, she fell into bad health, and was removed to the house of a benevolent lady, where, on her recovery after a protracted illness, she was employed as a servant. Some years after she came to reside with this lady, the most beautiful music was often heard in the house during the night, which excited no small interest and wonder in the family, and many a waking hour was spent in endeavours to discover the invisible minstrel. At length the sound was traced to the sleeping room of the girl, who was found fast asleep but uttering from her lips a sound exactly resem-

bling the sweetest tones of a small violin. On further observation it was found, that after being about two hours in bed, she became restless and began to mutter to herself. She then uttered sounds precisely resembling the tuning of a violin, and at length after some prelude, dashed off into elaborate pieces of music, which she performed in a clear and accurate manner, and with a sound exactly resembling the most delicate modulations of that instrument. During the performance she sometimes stopped, made the sound of retuning her instrument, and then began exactly where she had stopped in the most correct manner: thus these paroxysms occurred at irregular intervals, varying from one to fourteen, or even twenty nights; and they were generally followed by a degree of fever and pains over various parts of her body.

After a year or two her music was not confined to the imitation of the violin, but was often exchanged for that of a piano of a very old description, which she was accustomed to hear in the house where she now lived; and she then also began to sing, imitating exactly the voices of several ladies of the family. In another year from this time she began to talk a great deal in her sleep, in which she seemed to fancy herself instructing a younger companion. She often descanted with the utmost fluency and correctness on a variety of topics, both political and religious, the news of the day, the historical parts of scripture, public characters, and particularly the characters of members of the family and their visitors. In these discussions she showed the most wonderful discrimination often combined with sarcasm and astonishing powers of mimicry. Her language through the whole was fluent and correct, and her illustrations often forcible and even eloquent. She was fond of illustrating her subjects by what she called a *fable*, and in these her imagery was both appropriate and elegant. "She was by no

means," says my informer, "limited in her range. Buonaparte, Wellington, Blucher, and all the kings of the earth, figured among the phantasmagoria of her brain; and all were animadverted upon with such freedom from restraint, as often made me think poor Nancy had been transported to Madame Genlis' palace of truth. The justness and truth of her remarks on all subjects excited the utmost astonishment in those who were acquainted with her limited means of acquiring information." She has been known to conjugate Latin verbs which she had probably heard in the school-room of the family: and she was once heard to speak very correctly several sentences in French—at the same time stating that she heard them from a foreign gentleman whom she had met accidentally in a shop. Being questioned on this subject when awake, she remembered having seen the gentleman, but could not repeat a word of what he said. During her paroxysms, it was almost impossible to awake her; and when her eyelids were raised, and a candle brought near the eye, the pupil seemed insensible to the light. For several years she was, during the paroxysms, entirely unconscious of the presence of other persons; but about the age of sixteen, she began to observe those who were in the apartment, and she could tell correctly their numbers, though the utmost care was taken to have the room darkened. She now also became capable of answering questions that were put to her, and of noticing remarks made in her presence, and with regard to both she showed astonishing acuteness. Her observations, indeed, were often of such a nature, and corresponded so accurately with characters and events, that by the country-people she was believed to be endowed with supernatural powers.

During the whole period of this remarkable affection, which seems to have gone on for at least ten or eleven years, she was, when awake, a dull awk-

ward girl, very slow in receiving any kind of instruction, though much care was bestowed upon her; and in point of intellect, she was much inferior to the other servants of the family.\* In particular, she showed no kind of turn for music. She did not appear to have any recollection of what passed during her sleep."

Another very remarkable modification of this affection is referred to by Mr. Combe as described by Major Elliot, Professor of Mathematics, in the United States' Military Academy at West-point. The patient was a young lady of cultivated mind, and the affection began with an attack of somnolency, which was protracted several hours beyond the usual time. When she came out of it, she was found to have lost every kind of acquired knowledge. She immediately began to apply herself to the first elements of education, and was making considerable progress, when, after several months, she was seized with a second fit of somnolency. She was now at once restored to all the knowledge which she possessed before the first attack, but without the least recollection of anything that had taken place during the interval. After another interval, she had a third attack of somnolency, which left her in the same state as after the first. In this manner she suffered these alternate conditions for a period of four years with the very remarkable circumstance, that during the one state she retained all her original knowledge, but during the other, that only which she had acquired since the first attack. During the healthy interval, for example, she was remarkable for the beauty of her penmanship, but during the paroxysm wrote a poor, awkward hand. Persons introduced to her during the paroxysm, she recognised only in a subsequent paroxysm, but not in

\* Magnetizers assert, that the best instances of lucid somnambulism are met with in uneducated persons, and those not distinguished by quickness of parts.

the interval; and persons whom she had seen for the first time during the healthy interval, she did not recognise during the attack."

Dr. Passavant, in the preface to the second edition of his *Untersuchungen Uber den Lebeus Magnetismus und das Hellsehen*, observes, that, "he who has had an opportunity of frequently and carefully examining the phenomena of Animal Magnetism must have had the conviction forced upon him, that they stand in the most intimate connexion with the highest powers of the human soul; and that an individual in a state of pure ecstasy being enabled to foresee future events with precision, and distinctly to recognise distant objects, manifestly affords decisive evidence of the immaterial nature of the soul, which even in this life is sometimes emancipated from the fetters of material organization." \*

Yet notwithstanding the almost universal conviction of the reality of the phenomena of somnambulism in Germany, and the testimony of innumerable persons of character in France, among whom may be enumerated many names distinguished in the scientific and medical world: as Orfila, Dean of the Parisian faculty of medicine; Pariset, perpetual secretary to the Royal Academy of Medicine; Ribes, Rostan, Reveille-Parise, Fouquier, physician to the king, and many others—it is to be expected that incredulity must continue to prevail with some exceptions in England, till such time as frequent opportunities shall be afforded to the public of personally verifying their truth, the admission of which is opposed neither to the known laws of nature, nor to reason, though not at present capable of being satisfactorily explained. "Hence comes the distinction," as a well known author observes, "between things contrary to, and things above reason, that is beyond the limits of its reach.

\* Hints on Animal Magnetism, addressed to the Medical Profession. By J. C. Colquhoun, esq.

But the great difficulty lies in ascertaining what is above, and what contrary to reason ; there are perpetual disputes upon this article, some looking upon their non-comprehension as a certain mark of the contrariety, while others would impose the most palpable absurdities, under the notion of their being above reason. The vulgar are generally too credulous, because their reason being narrow, there is little room to contradict it ; and the learned are too indocile, because having extended theirs to a larger field, they think everything a contradiction that will not come within the sphere.”\*

But although individuals may remain incredulous, (either from not having witnessed any experiments, from having refused so to do when opportunities have offered, or from the failure or incompleteness of the particular trials at which they may have been present,) and are fully at liberty to entertain their own opinions, it is scarcely justifiable to impugn the testimony of so many and distinguished persons upon these points, and to ascribe the successful result of the experiments to collusion, deception, and imposture, unless they have sufficient grounds of proving their assertions. After referring to the solecisms in reasoning, and to the exaggerated conclusions in the work of an author who not only indulges in an unqualified denial of animal magnetism, though he admits that he has seen nothing of it himself, but also accuses magnetisers and somnambulists, of being impostors and not worthy of credit, the critic in one of the London papers proceeds justly to remark, “ We could wish before denouncing he would take the fair-play pains of doing something in the way of disproving. Far be we

\* Tucker. *The Light of Nature pursued*. Sixth edition.

Sir J. Clark justly observes, that the studies of those brought up to the medical profession in England are too much circumscribed to those subjects which are most immediately connected with it. This, together with the material nature of those studies, would render the majority, perhaps, not the most fit persons to investigate with impartiality questions referring to the philosophy of mind.

from standing out as advocates of any unorthodox doctrines in medicine be Hahnemann, or be who may be the propounder, but let us honestly caution writers of all grades, that it is not by flatly calling a thing false, they will get sensible people to take it for granted that it is false." There must be something more than clap-trap hacknied assertion; there must be facts and reason, and the results of *bona fide* enquiry and examination. Folks with brains in their heads will look for these features of a discussion, and satisfy themselves on which side they lie, ere they yield themselves to an undoubting impression either way. The constant broaching of new principles, makes it the more indispensable, that as faithful watchers for the public health, physicians should seriously apply themselves to meet these innovations, that quackery and imposition may be more completely exposed, and that anything of good may be separated from the plausible pretensions of deceit and error, that the latter may be marked and flung aside to perish, and the former retained for the benefit of ourselves and successors.\*

That the number of the incredulous is however daily diminishing, is apparent from the rapid progress which animal magnetism has made within a short period, not among the ignorant, and therefore the more credulous part of the community, but among the upper and middle classes, the more intelligent and the medical portion of the community, from whom alone rigid investigation is sought by the propagators of this part of psychological science, and many unprejudiced investigators; among whom may be ranked several eminent names, both in the medical and non-medical community, who were formerly opposed to magnetism from the apparently incredible nature of the phenomena, who have not hesi-

\* Critique from the Morning Post, March 29, upon "The Great Physician."

tated to admit their conviction of its truth, from the incontrovertible evidence presented to them. The following notice of a lecture recently given at the Mechanics' Institution by Mr. Nyman, of Boston, United States, from the Morning Chronicle, shows that in America the existence of the powers of magnetism are generally acknowledged by the majority of persons competent to judge of the matter. "The lecturer read extracts from the report of a committee consisting of twenty-four gentlemen of Boston, composed of an equal number of divines, lawyers, and physicians, a great majority of whom were sceptics, and who were appointed in 1841 to examine into the claims of mesmerism as put forth by Dr. R. H. Collyer. This committee after investigating the matter for five days, expressed their wish that the Doctor should operate upon an individual with whom he was unacquainted, and on whom the committee could place reliance. The individual was brought forward by the sceptical portion of the committee, and in the space of ten minutes the perfect mesmeric state was produced, and results of a far more satisfactory character were elicited than from the Doctor's own subject. Upon that occasion the following was unanimously resolved with a view to publication.

"That while this committee refrain from expressing any decided opinion upon the science or principle of animal magnetism, they freely confess that certain phenomena have been presented to them which cannot be explained upon the supposition of collusion or any physiological principle known to them.'

"Agreeably to the lecturer's wish, a committee of three was appointed from the audience, consisting of two sceptics and one believer, all strangers to him, in order to examine the experiments and detect collusion if any existed. The patient's pulse was noted by the committee, and found to be 100

beats a minute. After being mesmerised, which occupied two minutes, the pulse was found to be 120; the patient was then placed in the most awkward and painful positions that could be imagined, and several physicians declared the pupil of the eye could not be seen. The experiments of stopping the patient while walking, singing, &c., and exciting the cerebral organs when in the abnormal, and local effects attempted upon her while in the normal state were equally successful. One gentleman of the committee, expressed his firm opinion, that the subject was in an abnormal state, and from the close attention and scrutiny which he had paid, the features could not be feigned. The second expressed a similar conviction, adding that he had been acquainted with the subject for years, though not to the extent he had that evening witnessed. The third, not a medical gentleman, declared that what he had seen was singularly strange, and to him perfectly unaccountable. He could detect nothing like collusion, but the subject being to him so novel, and so startling, he should require the strongest evidence; in fact, nothing short of having himself or some of his friends operated upon, would convince him. Great silence prevailed throughout the evening, being only interrupted by the expressions of approbation which were occasionally given by all present, &c."

The above extracts and quotations from various sources in Germany, France, and England, may serve to show the opinions which are entertained by those who have witnessed the experiments, observed the phenomena, and are competent to judge of the matter, and which I regard as better calculated to lead to an impartial consideration, and a proper estimation of them, than the remarks of any single individual.

As a remedial agent, Animal Magnetism appears to be coming into much more general use both in

France and England,\* and numerous cases are recorded of its beneficial effects, especially in insanity, neuralgic and spasmodic affections, epilepsy, St. Vitus' dance, and others of the class of functional nervous disorders; as also in deafness of long standing, of which one case of fifteen years' duration is reported by Dr. Teste to have been cured, when all other means had failed, after a few weeks' magnetization, though the patient subsequently had a recurrence of the disease, in consequence of his getting wet through. Several deaf and dumb patients are likewise said to have derived advantage. In most of these instances magnetization of the patients was alone employed; in some, however, the indications of somnambulists were followed, though of course further experience by unprejudiced persons is requisite to determine upon the estimation to be attached to magnetism as a curative means.

\* An institution for the cure of diseases by magnetism has been established in Paris, under the direction of M. Gauthier, author of the "Histoire du Somnambulisme," which was approved by the King and the Minister of the interior.

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